

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-7-03-03

Issued at Homer, Tuesday, June 10,  
2003

Effective Date: 12:01 A.M., Saturday, June 14, 2003

Expiration Date: 11:59 P.M., Monday, June  
30, 2003, unless superseded by subsequent  
emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order opens the Ninilchik River from its mouth upstream to the downstream edge of the Sterling Highway Bridge, from 12:01 a.m. on Saturday June 14 to 11:59 p.m. on Monday June 30 to king salmon fishing. Only king salmon with a healed adipose fin-clip scar may be retained. King salmon with an adipose fin shall not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. The daily bag and possession limit is one fish 20 inches or greater in length and 10 fish under 20 inches. Fish 20 inches or greater in length must be recorded on the back of the fishing license or harvest record card. Bait is allowed. Only one single hook may be used.

### REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.022(a)(8) are added to read:

#### **5 AAC 56.022. WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS.**

(a)(8) That portion of the Ninilchik River from its mouth upstream to the downstream edge of the Sterling Highway Bridge is open to king salmon sport fishing from 12:01 am on Saturday, June 14 to 11:59 pm on Monday, June 30. Only king salmon with a healed adipose fin-clip may be retained. King salmon with an adipose fin shall not be removed from the water and must be released immediately. The daily bag and possession limit is one king salmon 20 inches or greater in length and 10 fish less than 20 inches. Only one single hook may be used.

Kevin C. Duffy  
Commissioner



By delegation to:

Nicole J. Szarzi  
Area Management Biologist

### JUSTIFICATION:

The Ninilchik River king salmon sport fishery is supported by wild and hatchery-produced fish. All hatchery king salmon stocked into the Ninilchik River are marked as smolt with an adipose fin-clip and adults are recognized by a healed adipose fin clip scar. From 1999-2002, an average of 600 hatchery-produced kings, surplus to egg-take needs, spawned in the Ninilchik River. A surplus of hatchery-produced king salmon is projected in 2003 and is available for harvest. Therefore, the department is extending this fishery from June 14 through the end of June to harvest hatchery-produced king salmon that are surplus to egg-take needs.

We do not project that wild king salmon escapement will exceed the escapement goal range of 400 to 850 wild fish by 25 % so liberalization of harvest on wild fish is unwarranted at this time. To reduce impacts on wild fish, only that portion of the Ninilchik River downstream of the Sterling Highway Bridge will be open to fishing.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 2 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.